

## Formula for the Future

### Delegates from AMC carve out plan at Conference in Virginia

by Tom Rogers, Family Action Program Specialist

The U.S. Army Materiel Command's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Army Family Action Plan Conference ended on a high note with delegates confident and determined about presenting 13 issues to Army command officials. Addressing these issues, which affect soldiers, their families, Army civilians, and contractors, will contribute to the overall well-being of the Army family and the mission of AMC.

Representatives from three work groups dealt with a variety of issues. Medical and dental issues, however, topped the list of concerns. TRICARE claim procedures and dispute resolutions were studied by one work group. The delegates recommended the establishment of a task force at the installation level to educate soldiers and their families on claim procedures, and to create a universal TRICARE Prime Handbook.



Ms. Melinda Darby, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, addresses delegates at Opening Session.



Delegates to the 10th Annual AFAP Conference meet to discuss results.

It was also recommended that TRICARE recruitment and retention difficulties could be helped by competitive reimbursement rates and recruitment of specialists and providers. The delegates also endorsed pending legislation (S.2699 Warner-Hutchinson Bill) to ensure lifetime medical coverage for retirees. This will close the trap service members face at age 65 when they are removed from TRICARE and enrolled in Medicare.

Delegates addressed the dental care limits for junior enlisted families. It was recommended that free dental care be provided by eliminating premiums and co-payments. There was also a recommendation to modify the current contract to allow reimbursement for composite fillings, now the standard in the dental profession.

For federal employees, the delegates recommended the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan be

amended to include elderly dependents much like the active duty military plan provides. They also recommended granting six weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees to care for either newborn or adopted children.

The Child & Youth Services (CYS) work group had several important issues to discuss, including safety and security. It was recommended that Army Regulation (AR) 600-85 be changed to require random drug testing for all personnel working with children and youth. It was also recommended that AR 608-10 be changed to establish a standard Army policy for administration of all physician prescribed medications by CYS personnel.

For soldiers changing location, a recommendation was forwarded to implement a full replacement value program at no cost to the service

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# U.S. Army Materiel Command Army Family Action Plan



eAFAP is the electronic magazine dealing with AMC Army Family Action Plan issues. In November 2000, all the issues developed at the AMC conference will be brought up and discussed at the Department of the Army mini-conference.

The results of the DA conference will have far-reaching and profound impact on the quality of life for soldiers, civilians, families, and contractors.

To keep up-to-date on the status of current and future AFAP issues, you should register with eAFAP. After you register, updated information will be sent to you via eMail.

To register for eAFAP, come to the AMC MWR website at: <http://amcmwr-www.army.mil> or send an eMail request to [afap@hqamc.army.mil](mailto:afap@hqamc.army.mil).

**Robert Dozier**  
Information Specialist  
HQ AMC  
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*COL Jeffrey Christianson, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, presents Certificate of Appreciation to Lorna Dodt and all participants.*

This year was my first experience with the AMC Army Family Action Plan conference. Actually, it was my first experience with any AFAP. I was extremely impressed with the dedication and professionalism of all the people involved. Tom Rogers, Pam Budda, and Doris Houser were a dynamic team who coordinated every aspect from making the hotel arrangements to training the facilitators, recorders, and issue support personnel and everything in-between.

All in all it was a very worthwhile and rewarding week and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.



*LTG Link speaks of the future of AMC and the Army Mission as well.*

She commended the delegation for their efforts, and the importance of AFAP on the future of AMC and the Army as a whole.

## Facilitating at AFAP

by Lorna Dodt, Librarian, HQ AMC

As a facilitator it was fun to meet active duty military, civilians, spouses, and family members from various installations and see them tackle, evaluate, and prioritize so many issues that affect AMC, the Army, and DOD. It was interesting to see how much the command group and their spouses really supported the whole concept and process of AFAP. The time and interest shown by Mrs. Coburn, Mrs. Mahan, Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Christianson impressed everyone.

## LTG Link Discusses Future of AMC

by Robert Dozier, Information Specialist

LTG Link, delivered a briefing to the AFAP delegation about the future of AMC. This was the General's last briefing at AMC and in the Army. He is retiring.

Many in the audience knew GEN Link and his contribution to the mission of AMC and support of the soldiers and civilians.

Mrs. Link was able to attend the conference



*Mrs. Link speaks to the delegation - thanking them for their contribution, and tells about GEN Link's and her family's plan for the future in retirement.*

## AFAP CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Jerry L. Allen | Linda Allen | Shamike L. Bethea | Barbara P. Carney | COL Jeffrey Christianson | Julie Christianson | General John G. Coburn | Janice Coburn | Dave Colangelo | Karen E. Collomb | Teresa D. Crouse | Ms. Melinda Darby | Jack Darby | Penny L. Dixon | Linda Durgin | Georgette M. Floyd | Linda S. Fox | William Fox | Everett Geno | Eric Geurkink | Bruce Hildebrand | James Huang | Diane L. Jernigan | Margaret Justis | Daniel Keel | C. Anthony King | Lisa Lack | Ruth M. LaFeviers | Karen G. Lake | Jaime Mahan | MG Charles S. Mahan, Jr. | COL (Chaplain) William Morrison | Jon R. Noland | Elizabeth Pierson | Linda Pierson |

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# Conference - Alexandria Virginia, 31 Jul - 3 Aug 2000



## Interview

by Robert Dozier, Information Specialist, HQ AMC

*Elizabeth Pierson (16 years old)  
Army Teen Panelist - Selfridge*

Q. You attended the AMC Teen Discovery 2000 at Selfridge. How was it?

*Beth: It was a lot of fun. It took place at my home base, and we got to do the planning for it.*

Q. What was the biggest surprise from Teen Discovery?

*Beth: Everyone got into the Franklin Covey Training - 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.*

Q. What are your impressions about AFAP?

*Beth: It is a great learning experience for me. I am impressed that the installations have a voice to bring important issues higher in the command and to the Department of the Army.*

Q. What do you think about the people participating in AFAP?

*Beth: It is great how much understanding everyone brings to AFAP. But when it comes to youth issues, I really appreciate how much everyone listened to my point of view. I really felt that my attendance made a difference. I really think Peggy Hinson (Youth Services Program Manager) is a good influence. She inspires good ideas, and I feel we really connected through eMail and during the conference. She is really supportive.*

Q. What do you hope to accomplish this week at the conference?

*Beth: I really want to see our issues taken to the Department of the Army so that the problems can be solved and programs implemented which will help families.*

Q. I hear you met General and Mrs. Shinseki?

*Beth: It was great. I had the opportunity to attend a briefing with the Army Teen Panel. I also met them at the Education Summit in July in Alexandria. I was proud to be voted by the advisors to sit at the head table. We had a chance to discuss everything. They were really great.*

Q. What are your plans for the future?

*Beth: I hope to attend the University of North Carolina and study Political Science and Marine Biology.*

Q. Where would be your ideal dream vacation?

*Beth: I'd love to go to Hawaii. It must be really pretty and nice there. I'm taking scuba diving lessons in the fall.*

Q. What question didn't I ask, that I should've?

*Beth: About my family, especially my sisters Suzy, Lissa, and Mallory. They are so supportive, and give me advice about school and soccer. We go to movies and just hang out together. I really love them.*

Q. Where is your next stop after AFAP?

*Beth: Home!*

Beth is a Junior at Marine City High School. Her favorite class is Biology. She is a volunteer at School Age Summer Camp for ages 6 - 12. She is President of the local Students Against Drunk Driving chapter and a participant in her School Student Government. She was born in Virginia, and her Dad is retired Navy.

## Report Out Session

Work groups spokespersons present issues to command for consideration for raising to Department of Army status at their AFAP conference in November.



MAJ James Raftery

ARL

Personnel Services/  
Entitlements

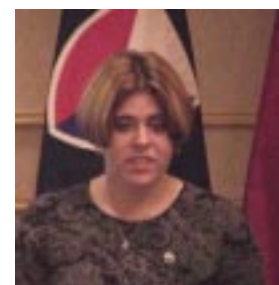


SSG Eric Geurkink

TACOM

MWR & Family Services

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Medical and Dental

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**AFAP CONFERENCE SPECIAL SPEAKERS:** Trisha Brooks | Peter Isaacs | Sylvia Kidd | LTG James Link |

LTG John McDuffie | Joyce Raezer | Dr. Sue Schwartz | **STAFF ATTENDEES:** Darrin Allen | Brooke Brewer | Gloria Bruzek |

Pam Budda | Carolyn Burgan | Robert Crawley | Sophia (Bea) Curl | Lorna Dodt | Robert Dozier | Bonnie Hensley | Margaret Hinson |

Doris Houser | Maggie Montgomery | Connie Roberts | Tom Rogers |

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## Formula

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member for loss or damaged goods while PCSing (permanent change of station).

For contractors, delegates recommended an expansion to DOD Directive 1342.13 so that contractors have guaranteed access to the DOD school system. This eliminates the risk the contractor's family members take, if an overseas DOD school system is full.

Finally, the delegates recommended two legislative changes affecting Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) employees. The first would provide the right to choose from more than one health insurance company, and the other would provide equal comp time for all eligible NAF employees.

AMC's recommendations will now be taken to the Headquarters, Department of the Army's Army Family Action Plan Conference in November.

Major General Charles Mahan, Jr., AMC's Chief of Staff, wrapped up the conference with thanks to the participants for their hard work in reviewing the issues and developing recommendations. He said, "We don't always realize the problems our people face. It's good to bring us back to reality. I look forward to resolving these issues."



MG Charles Mahan, Jr., AMC Chief of Staff



## Top Five Services

The TOP 5 Services voted at the AFAP were:

- o MWR-Recreation (#5)
- o Army Community Service (#4)
- o Commissary (#3)
- o Child and Youth Services (#2)

...and the number one service voted at the AFAP Conference 2000 is:

- o Medical/Dental Services (#1)

## First Impressions at AFAP 2000

by Margaret Montgomery

As a newly appointed Presidential Management Intern attending my first AFAP conference, I was thoroughly impressed with the Army's sincere desire to reach out to its family members and address their concerns. No issue was too big or too small, and everyone was treated with respect. The AMC MWR team members are truly experts in their field and facilitated this top-notch conference efficiently and professionally. It was my pleasure to observe the AFAP process and to learn how sincere the Army is about addressing its family members' issues.



AFAP Program Manager, work group team coordinators, facilitators, recorders, and issue support persons

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